

S-E-C-R-E-T

REPORT

CD NO.

25X1

COUNTRY East Germany

SUBJECT SED Criticism of Heinrich Rau

DATE DISTR. 30 June 1955

NO. OF PAGES **2**
25X1

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
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SUPPLEMENT TO
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. At a meeting of the SED Politburo in early April 1953, Heinrich Rau¹ was forced to undergo self-criticism. He was personally responsible for a series of mistakes in the Ministry for Machine Construction. Walter Ulbricht accused Rau, in addition, of having carried on "fractional" activities (Fraktionspolitik) and of having been guilty of divisive behavior in heading the Ministry (sektiererisches Verhalten in der Anleitung).

2. The fact that Rau was given a new ministerial position at all is directly traceable to the support given him by Otto Grotewohl², personally and by the members of Grotewohl's group in the Politburo.³
3. Rau was given to understand, however, that if he failed to carry out his duties as Minister of Economic Affairs and Foreign Trade, his political life would be over.⁴

1. [] Comment: Rau was relieved as Minister for Machine Construction and appointed Minister for Domestic and Foreign Trade in mid-April 1955.
2. [] Comment: [REDACTED] at the time of the Zaisser-Herrnstadt crisis in the [REDACTED] following 17 June 1953 Rau was on shaky ground. Here [REDACTED] is the support of Grotewohl which is supposed to have [REDACTED] Rau to maintain his position. Another factor which played a part was that for reasons of prestige the Politburo did not want to have any more personnel changes than those caused by the crisis.
3. [] Comment: [] did not further identify the members of Grotewohl's [REDACTED] group.
4. [] Comment: [] indicates that the SED anticipates considerable difficulty in fulfilling the 1955 export plan. If this is the case, Rau's new position will not seem to be [REDACTED].

CLASSIFICATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. At a meeting of the SED Politburo in early April 1955, Heinrich Rau¹ was forced to undergo self-criticism. He was held personally responsible for a series of mistakes in the Ministry for Machine Construction. Walter Ulbricht accused Rau, in addition, of having carried on "factional activity" (Fraktionspolitik) and of having been guilty of divisive activity in heading the Ministry (sektiererisches Verhalten in der Anleitung). 25X1
2. The fact that Rau was given a new ministerial position at all is directly traceable to the support given him by Otto Grotewohl² personally and by the members of Grotewohl's "group in the Politburo."³ 25X1
3. Rau was given to understand, however, that if he fails in his current post as Minister for Domestic and Foreign Trade, his political career will be over.⁴

1. Comment: Rau was relieved as Minister for Machine Construction and appointed Minister for Domestic and Foreign Trade in mid-April 1955. 25X1
2. Comment: Even at the time of the Zaissner-Herrnstadt crisis in the Politburo following 17 June 1953 Rau was on shaky ground. Here also it was the support of Grotewohl which is supposed to have enabled Rau to maintain his position. Another factor which played a part was that for reasons of prestige the Politburo did not want to have any more personnel changes than those caused by the crisis. 25X1
3. Comment: [] did not further identify the members of Grotewohl's group. 25X1
4. Comment: [] indicates that the SED anticipates considerable difficulty in fulfilling the 1955 export plan. If this is the case, Rau's new position does not seem to be very stable. 25X1

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